

# Facts about...

## About the Applied Research Program

**Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS)**  
<http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/>

**Office of Cancer Survivorship (OCS)**

**Applied Research Program (ARP)**

Health Services and Economics Branch (HSEB)

Outcomes Research Branch (ORB)

Risk Factor Monitoring and Methods Branch (RFMMB)

**Behavioral Research Program (BRP)**

Applied Cancer Screening Research Branch (ACSRB)

Basic Biobehavioral Research Branch (BBRB)

Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB)

Health Promotion Research Branch (HPRB)

Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB)

**Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program (EGRP)**

Analytic Epidemiology Research Branch (AERB)

Clinical and Genetic Epidemiology Research Branch (CGERB)

**Surveillance Research Program (SRP)**

Cancer Statistics Branch (CSB)

Statistical Research and Applications Branch (SRAB)

### Overview

The Applied Research Program (ARP) is one of five programs in the [National Cancer Institute's](#) (NCI's) [Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences](#) (DCCPS). The attached [organization chart](#) shows ARP's position within NCI's structure.

ARP's mission is to evaluate patterns and trends in cancer-associated health behaviors, practices, genetic susceptibilities, health services, and outcomes. ARP monitors and evaluates these factors among the general population and among specific populations in the United States, and determines their influence on patterns and trends in cancer incidence, morbidity, mortality, survival, cost, and health-related quality of life.

### ARP and Its Branches

ARP carries out its research and evaluation activities in three branches:

- [Health Services and Economics Branch](#)
- [Risk Factor Monitoring and Methods Branch](#)
- [Outcomes Research Branch](#)

The Office of the Associate Director sets Program priorities, determines ARP resource use and staff responsibilities, and carries out initiatives that support the mission of the ARP within the DCCPS organizational structure.

### Areas of Research

Research conducted by ARP is targeted to:

- Monitoring risk and health behaviors.

- Improving methods for assessing cancer-relevant exposures.
- Monitoring cancer screening behaviors in populations.
- Examining the dissemination of cancer treatment in populations.
- Advancing methods and systems for measuring and monitoring quality of cancer care.
- Estimating cost and benefit of cancer interventions at the population level.
- Describing and understanding cancer-related health disparities.
- Improving methods for questionnaire design and testing.

Research in each area informs policy decisions in cancer prevention, treatment, and control. Staff also provide analytical support to other NCI cancer prevention and control research programs, and contribute quantitative analyses for NCI-wide program guidance, evaluation, and policy development.

### Research Tools and Surveys

- [SEER-Medicare Linked Database](#): The SEER-Medicare database consists of a linkage of the clinical data collected by the SEER registries with claims for health services collected by Medicare. These combined datasets can be used to assess patterns of care for persons with cancer, use of tests and procedures before and after a cancer diagnosis, and costs of cancer treatment.



- [Diet History Questionnaire](#): This food frequency questionnaire consists of 124 food items and includes portion size and dietary supplement questions. Extensive cognitive research was used in its development to ensure ease of use.
- [Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey](#): This survey of tobacco use contains information on a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 individuals. The data have been used to monitor trends in tobacco use, conduct tobacco-related research, and evaluate tobacco control programs.
- [Physician Surveys](#): The ARP tracks the use of screening modalities, therapies, new technologies, and other factors that may influence the national cancer burden. Staff periodically assess physician practice to see whether research findings are having the desired impact on physician knowledge and practice. ARP activities include selected studies of physicians and health care organizations.
- [Guides and Reports for Questionnaire Design and Testing](#): ARP staff use a variety of methods to develop and test questionnaires. The ARP Web Site has descriptions of the following methods:
  - The Question Appraisal System provides information on questionnaire design principles and how to apply them.
  - Cognitive Interviewing: A How-To Guide describes cognitive testing techniques.
  - An Introduction to Modern Measurement Theory describes item response theory modeling techniques.
- [National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\) Cancer Control Module](#): ARP participates in the NHIS by providing questions for the survey on cancer risk factors and screening and by analyzing data upon completion of the national survey. Cancer researchers are encouraged to visit the [NCHS Web site](#) to view NCI-funded cancer risk factor and screening modules.

More detailed listings of [Research Tools](#) and [Surveys](#) are available.

## Working with Us

The ARP welcomes the opportunity to explore our areas of research with a broad range of investigators. Funding opportunities within ARP directed toward the intramural and extramural research community focus on the following general areas:

- building capacity for cancer surveillance research to evaluate patterns and trends in cancer-related risk factors;
- investigating health behaviors and health services; and
- determining the influence of health behaviors and health services on trends in measures of cancer burden, including incidence, morbidity, mortality and survival.

ARP funding mechanisms for cancer research include the full range of NIH mechanisms, including grants and contracts, educational training grants, small business innovation research grants, and cooperative agreements. Some of the mechanisms used by students and scientists to work with us include:

- NIH Research and Training Opportunities Programs for students in high school through graduate school.
- Cancer Research Training Award for persons age 16 and older, including postdoctoral researchers.
- Division of Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program for postdoctoral training in cancer prevention and control.
- NIH Guest Researcher/Special Volunteer Programs for individuals wishing to donate their time and gain research experience.

Additional [funding](#) information is available.